

From: Brian Teague
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice Antitrust Division

Upon perusing the proposed final judgement for the Microsoft antitrust trial, I wish to draw your attention to what I consider a greivous omission.

The proposed final judgement includes no provision that Microsoft disclose the file formats employed by such applications as the Microsoft Office suite of productivity tools. No doubt through the exclusionary practices for which Microsoft currently stands trial, the Microsoft Office suite has become the defacto standard for creation and transfer of documents in business, industry and education. The inability (or, through much trial and error, imperfect ability) to interoperate with these file formats poses a major liability to corporations such as Corel and AbiSoft who wish to offer competetive products, not to mention open-source projects such as Gnumeric and Kylix.

Even though Office 2000 claims to operate with the industry-standard XML file format, Microsoft has not released the Document Type Definition (DTD) that defines the structure of these documents. Thus, they are still not accessible by non-Microsoft applications.

If your intent is truly to lower the barrier-to-entry into the desktop computing market that Microsoft has imposed, I urge you to include a provision that Microsoft disclose its proprietary file formats just as it must disclose its APIs.

Regards,
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